

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 880

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Phillip W. Watkins on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those persons who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Watkins is one such extraordinary educator who has served with probity for 36 years with The University of Tennessee at Martin; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Watkins has completed 36 years of outstanding service at UT Martin in a variety of roles, from faculty member to administrator; and

WHEREAS, as a student at UT Martin Branch from 1952-56, Phillip Watkins rendered admirable service as the president of the Student Government Association and was selected by his fellow students as Mr. UTMB; and

WHEREAS, from 1964-73, Dr. Watkins served as associate professor of biology, the Acting Dean of Liberal Arts, and Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Phillip Watkins began his estimable tenure as the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and in this important position, he built his legacy as an administrator who was always there for the students; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure at UT Martin, Dr. Watkins has touched the hearts and minds of thousands of young men and women who have graced the campus; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Watkins exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Dr. Watkins' 36 years of distinguished service to UT Martin, his friends, colleagues, students, and family gathered on April 27, 2000, to honor this inimitable man with a dinner roast and celebration; and

WHEREAS, attendees at the dinner were treated to a musical performance by Miss UTM, Valli Kugler, and Mike Munkel, John Eisterhold, Charles Harding, and Phil Dane paid tribute to their good friend and colleague, Dr. Watkins, with a roast; and

WHEREAS, the good people who work at and attend UT Martin have long recognized and appreciated Phillip Watkins' excellence as an educator and role model for young people; he is a never-ending source of inspiration to those who know and cherish him and is tremendously admired by students and staff alike; and

WHEREAS, the highlight of the celebration came when the university chose to honor Dr. Watkins with the establishment of the Watkins' Student Leadership Development Fund to enhance leadership opportunities for UT Martin students while also celebrating a career devoted to the development of the university's students; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded as a professional and friend, Dr. Watkins is the perfect example of a person totally committed to quality education and the highest ideals of public service; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Phillip Watkins has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the respect and admiration of his peers and his students; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That we extend to Dr. Phillip W. Watkins our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.